

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont

Team: Independent and Federal Programs

Item: Will the State Board of Education grant a Certificate of Approval to River Valley Community College (“RVCC”) to offer in Vermont a 27 credit Skills Through Apprenticeship Retraining (“STAR”) Advanced Machine Tool Technology certificate program, commonly known as the CNC Machinist STAR Program, for a period effective March 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011 (or sooner, upon the termination of the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration Grant SGA-DFA-PY-07-10) on the condition that River Valley Community College satisfies the conditions, terms and limitations contained in the attached report prepared by the Department of Education?

Recommendation:

That the State Board of Education grant a Certificate of Approval to River Valley Community College to offer in Vermont a 27 credit Skills Through Apprenticeship Retraining (“STAR”) Advanced Machine Tool Technology certificate program, commonly known as the CNC Machinist STAR Program, for a period effective March 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011 (or sooner, upon the termination of the U.S. Department Labor – Employment and Training Administration Grant SGA-DFA-PY-07-10) on the condition that River Valley Community College satisfies the conditions, terms and limitations contained in the attached report prepared by the Department of Education.

Statutory Authority: 16 VSA § 176a

Background: The State Board of Education is responsible for issuing Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Degree-Granting Authority, or both, to an applicant whose goals, objectives, programs and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances and facilities, are found to be adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest.

River Valley Community College, in partnership with Vermont HITEC, Inc. and Hypertherm, Inc., has applied for a Certificate of Approval to offer in Vermont a 27 credit Skills Through Apprenticeship Retraining (“STAR”) Advanced Machine Tool Technology certificate program, commonly known as the CNC Machinist STAR Program, which is funded primarily through the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration Grant SGA-DFA-PY-07-10. The CNC Machinist STAR Program was designed to provide a sufficient skill set for the employment, re-employment, and promotion of participants in high-wage, high-demand manufacturing jobs.

Cost Implications:

\$2,216 for staff to monitor compliance with conditions of approval and potential changes during the certification period

Staff Available:

Kerry Garber, Director Independent and Federal Programs
Laura Glass, Postsecondary Approval Coordinator

Conditions, Terms and Limitations of Approval (continued)
River Valley Community College
May 19, 2009

Having conducted a review of River Valley Community College's application for a Certificate of Approval to offer in Vermont a 27 credit CNC Machinist STAR Program under the requirements of Title 16, V.S.A., Section 176a, Independent and Federal Programs Review Team of the Vermont Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant a Certificate of Approval to River Valley Community College for a period co-terminus with the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration Grant SGA-DFA-PY-07-10, effective March 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011 (or sooner, upon the termination of the US DOL Grant), subject to the below-listed conditions, terms and limitations.

The following statutory and regulatory conditions, terms and limitations are included in the letter of approval issued by the Director of Independent and Federal Programs as part of the Certificate of Approval granted by the State Board of Education.

Conditions, Terms and Limitations of Approval:

1. River Valley Community College shall notify each applicant for enrollment, in writing, on an application, enrollment or registration form to be signed by the applicant, that credits earned through the respective programs are transferable only at the discretion of the receiving school.
2. River Valley Community College shall notify the State Board prior to making any substantive changes in or additions to educational programs described in your current certification application including engaging in any contractual arrangements with external organizations to teach credit-bearing courses.
3. At such time that River Valley Community College proposes to discontinue regular programs of instruction in Vermont, the school shall promptly notify the State Board regarding the disposition of student academic records.
4. Should River Valley Community College decide to offer in Vermont any new degree or certificate programs during this approval period, a new Certificate of Approval or Degree-Granting Authority application will be necessary.
5. River Valley Community College shall promptly provide to the Vermont Department of Education notification of the termination of the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration Grant SGA-DFA-PY-07-10.
6. River Valley Community College shall promptly provide to the Vermont Department of Education, throughout the life of this approval, notification of any substantive changes in or additions to the sources of income, funding sources, and/or financial management with respect to the 27 credit CNC Machinist STAR Program.
7. River Valley Community College shall promptly: (i) notify the Vermont Department of Education of any changes to the facility locations in Vermont where the 27 credit CNC Machinist STAR Program will be offered; and (ii) provide to the Vermont Department of Education documentation that all such facilities meet all applicable state, federal and local fire, safety, health and access standards.

Conditions, Terms and Limitations of Approval (continued)
River Valley Community College
May 19, 2009

8. River Valley Community College shall promptly provide to the Vermont Department of Education, throughout the life of this approval, any significant revisions to the program, policies, facilities, financial capability or administration of the 27 credit CNC Machinist STAR Program.
9. Failure of River Valley Community College to meet any of the terms or conditions of approval may result in the initiation of regulatory suspension procedures associated with the Certificate of Approval.